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LETTER DATED 26 JULY 1993 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF ARMENIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour to forward to you enclosed herewith the statement issued by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Armenia regarding the recent Azerbaijani air attack on the city of Vardenis in the Republic of Armenia.

I should be grateful if you would circulate this statement as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Alexander ARZOUMANIAN
Permanent Representative

Annex

Statement issued on 24 July 1993 by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Armenia on the Azerbaijani air attack on Vardenis, Armenia

On 24 July for the second time in two days, Azerbaijani military aircraft violated Armenia's airspace and shelled the civilian population of a city in Armenia. This morning at 7.30 a.m., Azerbaijani warplanes struck at Vardenis in the north-east of Armenia, killing six citizens, seriously wounding three, and causing considerable damage to buildings and property.

Yesterday, Azerbaijani planes had shelled the southern city of Kapan, causing similar damage.

The bombardment by the Azerbaijani air force of cities in Armenia represents at least an equal threat to the peace process as the military operations on the ground.

As there are no military operations on Armenia's borders with Azerbaijan, these air attacks can only be construed as Azerbaijani attempts to continue and expand the war, and derail the CSCE peace initiative.

The Government of Armenia expects that the international community - and especially those countries and organizations which have expressed concern with regard to the peace process - condemn with equal vigour Azerbaijan which is responsible for these actions.

Failure to do so would be incomprehensible to the people and Government of Armenia, who would have to question the neutrality of the international community in this conflict and its ability to mediate it.

In case these strikes are not ended, Armenia will have full justification to respond with the appropriate, forceful measures.